

The mission of the Foundation is to advance the MERCI concept to other hospitals locally, regionally and nationally. Through education and training, the Foundation will assist hospitals in initiating and adopting the program. To further its mission, the Foundation will serve as a clearinghouse for information relevant to the MERCI program.

“By diverting useable supplies from the hospital waste stream, MERCI can significantly reduce a hospital’s environmental impacts.”

Tom Griffin, State Coordinator
for Virginia Hospitals for a Healthy Environment

“Working with MERCI has allowed Christian Relief Services to help others with high quality and desirable medical supplies in our overseas health programs.”

Dave Frank, Warehouse Manager
Christian Relief Services

“Gleaning For The World, Inc. has received via MERCI equipment and supplies for distribution to mission organizations in thirty-six countries. Thousands of people have benefited who would not have received even primary medical care. The work of MERCI saves lives and offers the poorest of the poor a chance to survive the cycle of poverty.”

Rev. Ronald T. Davidson, Executive Director
Gleaning For The World, Inc.



MERCI

Medical Equipment Recovery Of Clean Inventory



For further information write the:

MERCI Foundation
350 Old Ivy Road, Suite 300
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
Or call 434/924-2444

Visit the MERCI Foundation on the web at:

www.mercifoundation.org

**The MERCI Foundation
can show you the process**

Resolved by the House of Delegates, that all hospitals in the Commonwealth be encouraged to adopt the MERCI Program;

House Resolution #42
House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
Virginia General Assembly 2003 Legislative Session

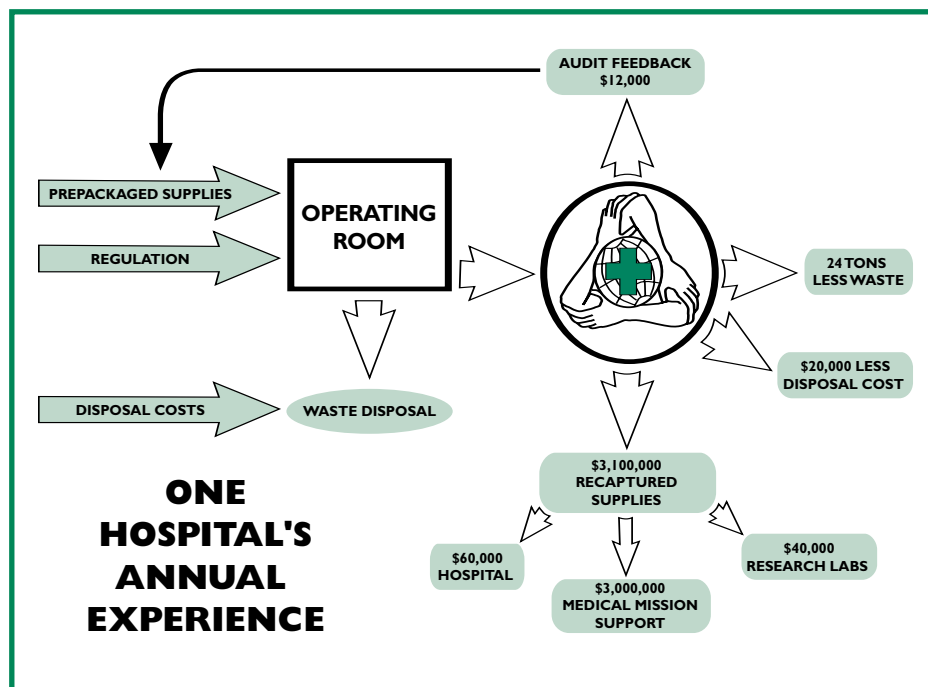
You will:

- Save money in your hospital
- Recover and resuse significant amounts of medical supplies each year
- Enhance health care in third world countries
- Help meet JCAHO accreditation requirements
- Reduce surplus and waste materials

Ten years ago national statistics showed that over two million tons of medical waste was going into landfills and incinerators annually. Some of this was clean medical supplies that could be recovered and used. Helen French, RN, a highly experienced senior operating room nurse at the University of Virginia Hospital decided to do something about this situation. She began a project whose objective was to identify and redirect clean medical inventory and decrease expensive disposal costs.

In August 1992, Ms. French began capturing clean medical supplies from the operating room that had previously been discarded. Procedures were adopted to recover this material. Some items saved could be returned to central supply; others could be used in research labs, and physicians on medical missions could use much of this "gold waste" in third world nations. An additional advantage was a decrease in disposal costs. For this process, Ms. French adopted the name **MERCI** as an acronym for "Medical Equipment Recovery of Clean Inventory".

In practice, **MERCI** is virtually a no cost program. With the part-time management and leadership of a senior OR nurse working with volunteers, existing internal hospital systems are used with minimal modification to fully implement and operate MERCI.



In addition to the humanitarian benefit, **MERCI** has a host of other practical features that include:

- Automatic audit feature to aid in adjusting supply orders and pack specifications
- Decrease in negative environmental impact
- Positive public relations fostered by
- MERCI's sensitivity to the preservation of the environment and through donations of recovered material to missions and community programs
- Aid in supplies for emergency preparedness

In 2001 the **MERCI Foundation** was established as a charitable organization (501(c)(3)) with Dr. Robert Cantrell, a nationally known otolaryngologist and administrator and now Director of the Virginia Health Policy Center, as its President and Dr. Robert Bennett, a Richmond based cardiologist with an engineering background as Vice President. Ms French is a founding board member.